

MINUTES

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Ladislaus B. Dombrowski Board Room
John A. Hannah Building
608 West Allegan
Lansing, Michigan

January 13, 2015
9:30 a.m.

Present: Mr. Michael P. Flanagan, Chairman
Mr. John C. Austin, President
Dr. Casandra E. Ulbrich, Vice President
Ms. Michelle Fecteau, Secretary
Dr. Pamela Pugh Smith, Treasurer
Ms. Lupe Ramos-Montigny, NASBE Delegate
Mrs. Kathleen N. Straus
Mrs. Eileen Weiser
Dr. Richard Zeile

Also Present: Ms. Melody Arabo, 2014-2015 Michigan Teacher of the Year

REGULAR MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Flanagan called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m.

II. INFORMATIONAL FOLDER ITEM

1. Information on the Michigan Mathematics and Science Centers Network

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND ORDER OF PRIORITY

Mr. Austin moved, seconded by Dr. Ulbrich, that the State Board of Education approve the agenda and order of priority.

The vote was taken on the motion.

**Ayes: Austin, Fecteau, Ramos-Montigny, Pugh Smith, Ulbrich,
Weiser, Zeile
Absent During Vote: Straus**

The motion carried.

IV. INTRODUCTION OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

Mrs. Marilyn Schneider, State Board Executive, introduced members of the State Board of Education and the 2014-2015 Michigan Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Schneider introduced Dr. Pamela Pugh Smith, who was beginning her eight-year term as a member of the State Board of Education.

Mr. Flanagan said Governor Snyder has been represented at the Board table by Mr. Craig Ruff, who has retired and a replacement has not yet been named. Mr. Flanagan invited audience members to introduce themselves.

V. PERSONAL PRIVILEGE – MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN

Mr. Flanagan said he was going to comment on the competitive bid to provide the state's college assessment test, but due to the formal protest submitted by ACT, he will not be commenting on the issue, and letting the Department of Technology, Management, and Budget's formal process take its course.

Mr. Flanagan shared photos taken during the Michigan Department of Education Bring Your Child to Work Days on December 22 and 23. He also shared a holiday video done by students attending the Michigan School for the Deaf.

VI. CEREMONIAL SWEARING IN OF PAMELA PUGH SMITH AND CASANDRA ULBRICH

Mr. Flanagan said it is the Board's custom to have a ceremonial swearing in during the first official meeting of newly elected Board members. He said Pamela Pugh Smith and Casandra Ulbrich were elected by the voters during the November 4, 2014 election, and they were officially sworn in during the January 1, 2015 inaugural ceremony on the Capitol steps.

Dr. Pugh Smith introduced her father, John Pugh; and Dr. Ulbrich introduced her parents, Val and Juanita Washburn.

Mr. Flanagan read "For a New Position" by John O'Donohue.

VII. ELECTION OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION OFFICERS FOR 2015-2016

Mr. Flanagan said the By-laws of the State Board of Education state that at the January meeting of each odd numbered year, the voting members of the State Board of Education shall elect from their membership, a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and National Association of State Board of Education Delegate.

- A. Mr. Flanagan declared nominations open for the President of the State Board of Education.

Dr. Ulbrich nominated Mr. John Austin for President of the State Board of Education. Mrs. Straus supported the nomination.

Mr. Flanagan asked if there were additional nominations for President.

Since there were no further nominations, Mr. Flanagan declared that the nominations be closed.

Mr. Flanagan asked if Mr. Austin would accept the nomination, and Mr. Austin said he would accept the nomination.

A roll-call vote was taken on the motion of President of the State Board of Education.

**Austin – Austin
Fecteau – Austin
Ramos-Montigny – Austin
Pugh Smith – Austin
Straus – Austin
Ulbrich – Austin
Weiser – Present
Zeile – Abstain**

The motion carried.

Mr. Flanagan declared Mr. Austin President of the State Board of Education.

Mr. Austin said he appreciates the Board's support. He said he is committed to helping advance policies to improve learning outcomes, and he will continue to work on a bipartisan basis.

- B. Mr. Flanagan declared nominations open for the Vice President of the State Board of Education.

Mrs. Straus nominated Dr. Casandra Ulbrich for Vice President of the State Board of Education. Mr. Austin supported the nomination.

Mr. Flanagan asked if there were additional nominations for Vice President.

Since there were no further nominations, Mr. Flanagan declared the nominations closed.

Mr. Flanagan asked if Dr. Ulbrich would accept the nomination, and Dr. Ulbrich said she would accept the nomination.

A roll-call vote was taken on the motion of Vice President of the State Board of Education.

**Austin – Ulbrich
Fecteau – Ulbrich
Ramos-Montigny – Ulbrich
Pugh Smith – Ulbrich
Straus – Ulbrich
Ulbrich – Ulbrich
Weiser – Abstain
Zeile – Abstain**

The motion carried.

Mr. Flanagan declared Dr. Ulbrich Vice President of the State Board of Education.

Dr. Ulbrich said she appreciates the Board's support and looks forward to continuing as the Vice President of the Board.

- C. Mr. Flanagan declared nominations open for the Secretary of the State Board of Education.

Dr. Ulbrich nominated Ms. Michelle Fecteau for Secretary of the State Board of Education.

Mr. Flanagan asked if there were additional nominations for Secretary.

Since there were no further nominations, Mr. Flanagan declared the nominations closed.

Mr. Flanagan asked if Ms. Fecteau would accept the nomination, and Ms. Fecteau said she would accept the nomination.

A roll-call vote was taken on the motion of Secretary of the State Board of Education.

**Austin – Fecteau
Fecteau – Fecteau
Ramos-Montigny – Fecteau
Pugh Smith – Fecteau
Straus – Fecteau
Ulbrich – Fecteau
Weiser – Fecteau
Zeile – Fecteau**

The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Flanagan declared Ms. Fecteau Secretary of the State Board of Education.

- D. Mr. Flanagan declared nominations open for the Treasurer of the State Board of Education.

Mr. Austin said it has been the Board's tradition to have bipartisanship leadership. He said it is his understanding that there is no Republican member willing to accept the nomination of Treasurer.

Mrs. Weiser said the Treasurer position has no role and no function in legislative appropriations, and she believes it should be deleted from the Board's By-laws.

Mr. Austin nominated Dr. Pamela Pugh Smith for Treasurer of the State Board of Education.

Mr. Flanagan asked if there were additional nominations for Treasurer.

Since there were no further nominations, Mr. Flanagan declared the nominations closed.

Mr. Flanagan asked if Dr. Pugh Smith would accept the nomination, and Dr. Pugh Smith said she would accept the nomination.

A roll-call vote was taken on the motion of Treasurer of the State Board of Education.

**Austin- Pugh Smith
Fecteau – Pugh Smith
Ramos-Montigny – Pugh Smith
Pugh Smith – Pugh Smith
Straus – Pugh Smith
Ulbrich – Pugh Smith
Weiser – Abstain
Zeile – Abstain**

The motion carried.

Mr. Flanagan declared Dr. Pugh Smith Treasurer of the State Board of Education.

- E. Mr. Flanagan declared nominations open for the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) Delegate of the State Board of Education.

Mr. Austin nominated Ms. Lupe Ramos-Montigny for NASBE Delegate of the State Board of Education.

Mr. Flanagan asked if there were additional nominations for NASBE Delegate.

Mrs. Weiser nominated Dr. Zeile for NASBE Delegate of the State Board of Education.

Mr. Flanagan asked if there were additional nominations for NASBE Delegate.

Since there were no further nominations, Mr. Flanagan declared the nominations closed.

Mr. Flanagan asked if Ms. Ramos-Montigny would accept the nomination, and Ms. Ramos-Montigny said she would accept the nomination.

Mr. Flanagan asked if Dr. Zeile would accept the nomination, and Dr. Zeile said he would accept the nomination.

A roll-call vote was taken on the motion of NASBE Delegate of the State Board of Education.

**Austin – Ramos-Montigny
Fecteau – Ramos-Montigny
Ramos-Montigny – Ramos-Montigny
Pugh Smith – Ramos-Montigny
Straus – Ramos-Montigny
Ulbrich – Ramos-Montigny
Weiser – Zeile
Zeile – Zeile**

Mr. Flanagan declared Ms. Ramos-Montigny NASBE Delegate of the State Board of Education.

Mrs. Straus said Dr. Zeile serves as the Central Area Director on the NASBE Board of Directors.

VIII. RECESS

The Board recessed the Regular Meeting at 10:17 a.m. and convened the Committee of the Whole.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

IX. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Flanagan called the Committee of the Whole Meeting to order at 10:18 a.m.

X. PRESENTATION ON STUDENT INSPIRATION PROJECT

Ms. Natasha Baker, Deputy Superintendent, Education Services; Ms. Linda Forward, Director, Education Improvement and Innovation; and Ms. Kristen Harmeling, Partner, YouGov; presented on the Student Inspiration Project.

Mr. Flanagan said one of the keys to successful student outcomes in schools is that the students be engaged in their own learning. He said the Office of Education Improvement and Innovation has collected data from over 5,000 students and at least one of their parents as well as teachers, principals, and superintendents regarding how well students are engaged in their education. He said Board members saw a report last year on the data and its implications, and since that time staff has been working with many experts in the field to determine a way to engage students and to hear their voice. He said the Student Inspiration Project is a multi-faceted campaign designed to engage students and help them improve their involvement in school.

Information was shared via a [PowerPoint presentation](#).

Board member discussion included cost to sustain the campaign, indicators of a successful campaign, importance of engaging students, statewide participation in the campaign, reasons for student disengagement, providing mentorships and wrap around services, graduation rates, and differences in educational theory and culture.

XI. PRESENTATION ON SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS UPDATE AND COLLEGE, CAREER AND CIVIC LIFE (C3) FRAMEWORK

Ms. Natasha Baker, Deputy Superintendent, Education Services; Ms. Linda Forward, Director, Education Improvement and Innovation; and Mr. Jim Cameron, Social Studies Consultant, Education Improvement and Innovation; presented the Social Studies Standards Update and College, Career and Civic Life (C3) Framework.

Mr. Flanagan said the social studies standards were last updated in 2007. He said the College, Career and Civic Life (C3) Framework for Social Studies Standards, released in 2013, promotes a deeper understanding of social studies concepts through instructional practices, and Michigan's social studies standards need to be updated to reflect this knowledge and these skills.

Mr. Flanagan said there will presentations on social studies including instructional changes, assessment, and implications for teacher preparation at future Board meetings. He said staff will continue to work with the field and the legislature to provide background and to listen to input for the final standards which will be presented to the Board for approval in May.

Information was shared via a [PowerPoint presentation](#).

Board member discussion included embedding civil rights in standards, sequence and content expectations, participation of teacher practitioners in the review committee, legislation addressing the teaching of genocide, distinguishing truth from fallacy, low rate of proficiency, labor unions as part of the civil rights movement, multiple choice questions in assessment and fostering critical thinking skills, and integration of literacy and reading comprehension.

XII. RECESS

The Board recessed the Committee of the Whole at 11:45 a.m. and reconvened at the Regular meeting 1:00 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING

XIII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

1. Mr. Jeffrey Bohl of Marshall, Michigan; and Mr. Martin Pessetti of Battle Creek, Michigan. Mr. Bohl, Principal, Lakeview High School, provided verbal comments and written information on state testing.
2. Ms. Mary Starr of Plymouth, Michigan. Ms. Starr, representing the Michigan Mathematics and Science Centers Network, provided verbal comments on the Mathematics and Science Centers Network report in the Board's informational folder.

XIV. PERSONAL PRIVILEGE – MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN

Mr. Flanagan asked that new employees be introduced. Dr. Venessa Keesler, Deputy Superintendent, Accountability Services, introduced Ms. Tina Block, Office of Standards and Assessment.

XV. RECESS

The Board recessed the Regular Meeting at 1:19 p.m. and reconvened the Committee of the Whole.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

XVI. REPORT ON STATE SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH

Mr. Austin reported on the State Superintendent Search.

Mr. Austin said Ray and Associates has been contracted as the search firm to assist the Board in filling the position of Superintendent of Public Instruction. He said the application deadline is February 19, 2015, and information is available on the website of Ray and Associates and also linked to the State Board of Education website. Mr. Austin said the Board encourages all interested candidates to inquire and apply, and the Board will thoughtfully consider all applicants.

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned the Committee of the Whole at 1:23 p.m. to reconvene the Regular Meeting.

REGULAR MEETING

XVIII. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

F. Approval of Minutes of Special Meeting of December 11, 2014

Ms. Ramos-Montigny moved, seconded by Mrs. Weiser, that the State Board of Education approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of December 11, 2014.

The vote was taken on the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

G. Approval of Minutes of Regular and Committee of the Whole Meeting of December 16, 2014

Ms. Ramos-Montigny moved, seconded by Mr. Austin, that the State Board of Education approve the Minutes of the Regular and Committee of the Whole Meeting of December 16, 2014.

The vote was taken on the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

XIX. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Austin thanked the Board for re-electing him as President. Mr. Austin said he will work hard to help the Board work together on important policies and initiatives that can help improve education. He said this includes moving standards forward, and being strong advocates for good legislation whether it is proposed by the Board or Legislature. He said he is going to reach out to all parties of the Legislature and the Governor to talk constructively and find common ground, and he encourages Board members to do the same. He said he will speak to them regarding the search for the Superintendent of Public Instruction to make sure the Board is hearing their perspective.

XX. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Report

H. Human Resources Report

Grants

I. Repot on Grant Awards

1. 2014-2015 Title II, Part A(1): Improving Teacher and Principal Quality Grant – Initial; \$400,000
2. 2013-2014 Consolidation of Local Educational Agencies/Intermediate School Districts Grant – Amendment; \$694,693
3. 2014-2015 The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) – Initial; \$2,664,315
4. 2014-2015 Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge – Initial; \$3,295,378
5. 2014-2015 Section 99h: Competitive FIRST Robotics Grants – Initial; \$2,106,200
6. 2014-2015 Support for the Michigan STEM Partnership for State School Aid Act Section 99(7) – Initial; \$475,000
7. 2014-2015 Title I Statewide System of Support Technical Assistance Grant – Amendment; \$9,482,008
8. 2014-2015 Title I, Part A – Improving Basic Programs – Amendment; \$486,515,747
9. 2014-2015 Title I, Part C Migrant Education Program Identification and Recruitment Centers – Initial; \$459,431

10. 2014-2015 Title I, Part C Regular Year Migrant Program Allocations – Amendment; \$3,636,884
11. 2014-2015 Title III, Part A – English Language Acquisition Program, LEP – Amendment; \$9,063,835

Mr. Flanagan shared information on his visit to Dansville Schools and his day to day duties as Superintendent of Public Instruction.

XXI. REPORT OF MICHIGAN TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Ms. Melody Arabo reviewed her monthly activities as the 2014-2015 Michigan Teacher of the Year via a video presentation.

XXII. STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Martin Ackley, Director, Office of Public and Governmental Affairs; and Dr. Casandra Ulbrich, Chair, State Board of Education Legislative Committee; presented the State and Federal Legislative Update.

Mr. Ackley provided an update on legislative committee appointments, legislation awaiting Governor Snyder's signature, Senate Bill 74 regarding cyber bullying, and Senate Bill 423 regarding the adequacy study for school funding. He said currently there is no funding to hire a vendor for the adequacy study. Mr. Ackley provided an update on the May ballot proposal regarding transportation and education funding.

Dr. Ulbrich said the Board's Legislative Committee met on January 7, 2015. She said the Committee reviewed a 2015 Legislative Topics list that it will continue to review and update during the coming months.

Dr. Ulbrich said the Committee discussed sending a congratulatory letter to legislators and Governor Snyder and sharing Recommendations for Change to Michigan School Organization and Finance, which was adopted by the State Board of Education at its December 16, 2014, meeting.

Mrs. Schneider distributed the draft letter.

Mr. Austin said the Board adopted the Recommendations for Change to Michigan School Organization and Finance by a vote of six to two, and he proposed that he write a cover letter under his signature.

Mrs. Straus said the Board should have a joint meeting or reception with new legislators.

Dr. Zeile said the Board met with legislative committee members in the past, and it would be valuable to meet again to share perceptions regarding issues of common ground.

Following discussion, Mr. Austin proposed that there be a bipartisan committee to compose the cover letter.

Dr. Ulbrich moved, seconded by Ms. Ramos-Montigny, that the State Board of Education support Mr. Austin and a bipartisan committee to compose a letter to the Legislature signed by Mr. Austin accompanying Recommendations for Change to Michigan School Organization and Finance.

Ms. Ramos-Montigny proposed a friendly amendment allowing the participation of all interested Board members in composing the cover letter.

Mr. Austin agreed and Dr. Ulbrich accepted to the friendly amendment.

The vote was taken on the motion, as amended.

The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Austin said there will be discussion regarding State Board of Education Committee membership at next month's meeting. He said everyone on the State Board of Education is always invited to participate in committee meetings.

Ms. Ramos-Montigny said the State Board of Education should be speaking as one body, and she is uncomfortable with partisan discussions.

Following discussion regarding a meeting between legislators and board members, Dr. Ulbrich said the State Board of Education Legislative Committee will include it as an agenda topic at its February meeting.

Ms. Fecteau asked if there had been an announcement on the Detroit Public Schools Emergency Manager. Discussion followed.

Ms. Fecteau said there is concern regarding lack of participation in the development of the special education rules that were submitted to the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR). Following discussion on the rules process, Mr. Flanagan said it is his understanding that the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) will be submitting a letter regarding the rules to the Board and Department. Ms. Fecteau said she would like a copy of the letter from SEAC, and Mr. Flanagan said it will be shared with all Board members when it is received.

XXIII. COMMENTS BY STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

Mrs. Straus said she was interviewed by the National Association of State Boards of Education for an article on Michigan's out-of-schooltime learning standards, which is included in the January 2015 issue of *The State Education Standard*. She said Michigan is one of the only boards in the country to approve such standards.

Ms. Fecteau said she heard from Marcie Lipsitt that there is misunderstanding regarding whether or not short-term objectives need to be provided for special education students on the diploma track. Ms. Fecteau said it is important in identifying services required on a day-to-day basis to meet long-term goals. Ms. Baker said Department staff will be meeting with Ms. Lipsitt in the near future to understand her concerns, and it would be helpful to the discussion if Ms. Fecteau can share specific concerns. Ms. Fecteau said the meeting is a good idea, and she thanked Ms. Baker.

XXIV. TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

Mr. Flanagan said Board members may contact a member of the Agenda Planning Committee with suggestions for agenda topics.

XXV. FUTURE MEETING DATES

- A. Tuesday, February 10, 2105 (9:30 a.m.)
- B. Tuesday, March 17, 2015 (9:30 a.m.)
- C. Tuesday, April 14, 2015 (9:30 a.m.)

XXVI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

The video archive of the meeting is available at www.michigan.gov/sbe.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Fecteau
Secretary